Irrigation Projects in A.P.

3354. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have stated that the central clearance for almost all irrigation projects proposed by Andhra Pradesh was held up because of failure of the State Government to supply the information sought by the Central Water Commission, and there was no delay on the part of the union Government;

(b) if so, whether all the projects which were submitted to the centre have been returned to the State Government for further clearance;

(c) if so, the reasons stated by the State Government for delaying the information of these projects;

(d) the total number of projects pending at present with the State Government and also with the Union Government; and

(e) by what time the Union Government would clear the pending projects of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Out of 19 projects, 6 projects were found acceptable by the Technical Advisory Committee subject to certain observation like clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests and from Ministry of Welfare. Project Reports of 11 projects have been returned to the State Government for submitting modified proposals based on the comments of Central Water Commission and also for sorting out Inter-State issues. 2 projects are under examination in Central Water Commission.

The clearance of projects depends upon how soon the State Government is able to comply with the observations of the Central Appraising Agencies and obtain Clearances from Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Welfare in addition to sorting out the Inter State issues involved, if any.

Majauli Island

3355. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the size of Majauli Island in Assam ten years ago which has been ravaged by the mighty Brahmaputra river;

(b) the present size of the Island;

(c) whether it is a fact that Island which is considered to be World's largest since Island is slowly but surely losing its land mass to the river;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to prevent erosion;

(e) whether specific scheme for protection of this island is proposed to be taken up during 9th Plan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) According to the Census of 1971, the geographical area of Majauli island was 924.60 Sq.Km. During 1993, the size of the island was 879.28 Sq.Km. which was based on the study by satellite imagery.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Brahmaputra Board has recently taken up works for preparation of a Master Plan for flood and erosion management of the Majauli Island. The works envisage detailed survey and investigation, laying of a physical model and the result thus obtained will be utilised for taking effective measures against flood and erosion.

The Government of Assam has proposed for construction of embankments/retirements. pro-siltation devices at appropriate points in the Majauli Island. The State Forest Department has prepared a synoptic project on eco-stabilisation and conservation of Majauli Island during 1996-97. This report is under examination.

(e) and (f) The following scheme is proposed to be taken up during 9th Plan to protect the Majauli Island: Construction of land spurs at 4 km. to protect Brahmaputra dyke from erosion of river Brahmaputra in three phases.

Early Child Education Centres

3356. SHRI JAYANTA BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to close the Early Child Education Centres (E.C.E.) which are in operation in different Blocks of the States for children aged between 6 years to 9 years;

(b) if so, the policy decision of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the fate of the Teachers engaged in the E.C.E. Centres?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) Since Non-formal pre-school education for children in the age group of 3-6 years is one of the components of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme of this Department, it has been decided to phase out the Early Childhood Education Programme to avoid duplication with the ICDS.

(c) Wherever ECE Centres are phased out, efforts will be made to utilise their services under other existing programmes.